Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) There is no compound wall.

(b) No.

(c) Sometimes bones are found in the Police Station compound.

(d) The accommodation provided for the men cannot be said to be quite adequate.

(e) About Rs. 3,000.

(f) Yes.

Teaching of History and Geography in the Vernacular.

170. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number and names of schools where History and Geography are taught in the vernacular languages in the Upper Secondary Department;

(b) whether such schools follow any text books; and if so, whether they are in English or Vernacular?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) Seven.

1. P. G. H. S., Trippunittura
2. G. H. S., Cranganur
3. V. G. S., Trichur
4. G. H. S., Irinjalakkuda
5. H. S., Mulanthuruthy
6. H. S., Mangayil
7. H. S., Cranganur

(b) Yes; English. As the pupils have been given the option to answer the questions in History and Geography in the vernacular, the teachers in explaining the subjects make free use of the vernacular language. They have for their reference books written in Malayalam in these subjects.

Encouragement to the Ayurveda system of treatment.

171. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table copy of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer's communication to the Government, R. O. C. No. 324/1102, dated 21st December 1926, referred to in the answer to question No. 296 of the Legislative Session of 1107 (Vide Appendix XXIV);

(b) subsequent to the reply given to the Memorialists referred to in answer to (c) to the above question, what further

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encouragements have the Government given to the Ayurvedic system of treatment in the State?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Copy is appended. (*Appendix I.*)

(b) An Ayurvedic Vydiasala has been since opened at Tiruvilluamala. An Honorary supervisor has been appointed to supervise the Vydiasalas. A scheme for the training of Visha Vydians has been sanctioned. And a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided in the medical budget for 1108 for opening a Central Ayurvedic Hospital.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—(b) May I know whether the Government has prepared any scheme regarding the Central Ayurvedic Hospital?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No. Details have not been fixed yet.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has the centre been fixed upon?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes. Tentatively at Trichur.

Selling of timber through the agency of the Anamalais' Timber Trust.

172. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the quantity of timber sold through the agency of the Anamalais' Timber Trust (Mr. John Kuruvilla, Director) during the three months for which the contract was originally given;

(2) was the agency period extended subsequently; if so, for what period;

(3) has any timber been sold during the period of extension; and if so, what is the quantity sold;

(4) was any timber sold outright to the timber trust itself on a commission basis; if so, what was the quantity sold and the rate of commission agreed upon;

(5) was any portion of the timber thus sold taken delivery of on payment of the agreed price; what was the agreed price;

(6) was any portion of the timber contracted for sale, subsequently sold in public auction by Government; if s , what was the average price obtained by such auction; what was the quantity sold at such auction;

(7) have Government suffered any loss by such resale?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—(1) Nil.

(2) No.

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APPENDIX I.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 171.)

Letter dated 21st December 1926, C. No. 324 of 1102, from the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

With reference to Huzur Endorsement on C. No. 211 of 1099, dated 10th September 1926, Revenue Department (Land Revenue), I have the honour to report that I have been giving my best consideration to the subject of the Ayurvedic system of medicine of which so much has been said in the press and the Legislative Council in regard to its scientific basis, its eminent suitability to the Indian constitution and its lower costliness. The matter at issue before the Government is not connected with these points and therefore I do not propose to offer any comment on them. It must be admitted that, concurrent with the rise of nationalism in the minds of people, there has been a growing desire to rehabilitate the diminishing prestige and predominance of the indigenous systems. That there is an inherent vitality in Ayurvedic medicine in some degree is evidenced by its survival against the establishment and steady expansion of the western system, backed up as it is by the Government of India. But how much of this vitality exists in the concrete form of Ayuredic medicine as it exists and is practised now-a-days it is difficult to determine. As the sentiment is however strong and emphatic to give State support to this system to prove its usefulness and general adaptability I suppose it is incumbent on the Government to devise a practical scheme in which it could be made applicable for the needs of the public.

The votaries of the Ayurvedic system and its most ardent advocates will admit that there is limitation to the scope of its usefulness and applicability. In the whole department of sanitary science, including prevention of epidemic, it has no claim of practical public utility. In the wide range of surgical affections and in the whole province of midwifery, it is unfit and helpless. Most of the cases that require relief fall in these two departments of medicine so that it is obvious that its sphere of usefulness is strictly limited. The State however cannot ignore to provide adequate relief to the suffering poor whose ailments fall in these two divisions and cannot afford to be long oblivious to the necessity of providing dispensaries in rural parts where such facilities do not now exist, at least within 10 miles of such localities. Velur is an instance in point. My opinion is that Ayurvedic Dispensaries have a place betwixt this 10 mile radius where it could fulfil a useful role of ministering to the ordinary needs of the poor. I should not be understood to mean that Ayurvedic dispensaries are not wanted in more important centres, but I should think that, in such places Government would be encouraging Ayurvedic medicine if any contribution is given to the existing institutions for the express purpose of giving medicines to the poor, or in the absence of such institutions a stipend or honorarium given to a recognised physician of the locality for that purpose.

In the case of Ayurvedic dispensaries maintained by the State it seems to my mind that they should be reallocated in the mannner suggested above and I would repeat that suggestion made by me in may letter Ref. on C. No. 2873 of 1100 dated 17th August 1925, that the physicians of these dispensaries should be men who have a training in the General Hospital, Ernakulam, in first aid and simple surgical emergencies. This would certainly augment their usefulness and popularity and may be brought into force gradually. It is my conviction that an inteligent Ayurvedic physician would be for more efficient if only he received a special training in modern scientific methods of an elementary kind. It is analogous to the established

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practice of giving indigenous midwives a training in the aseptic methods of midwifery.

I shall close with a few remarks on the proposal of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats as laid down in his letter C. No. 358 of 1101, dated 21st January 1926.—

(1) "The opening of a well-equipped Ayurvedic Hospital in Trichur for giving training to students who must have got a working knowledge of Ayurveda,"—It seems to me that it is not a light undertaking. The Travancore Sirkar is maintaining an institution of the kind in Trivandrum. Reference to the Travancore Budget discloses the fact that the annual recurring expenses of that institution amounts to Rs. 36,200 leave alone the capital outlay.

I have no hesitation to say that in the stringent financial position of the State, a similar outlay for such an institution in the Cochin State is not justifiable. This is not an institution which is indispensible. It cannot be argued that we cannot do without it. It is clearly then a luxury or a satisfaction to a sentimental demand. A central institution of this kind in Trichur will not meet the needs of a rural population crying for medical relief of one kind or other from localities where neither exists. Obviously it will not serve the needs of the masses. Has Ayurveda established its claim so strongly and convincingly as to induce the State to maintain and support two hospitals of different systems in Trichur? I should think not.

If Cochin Ayurvedic students require further training the doors of the Trivandrum Ayurvedic School are opened to them and in the alternative there is a more modern and advanced type of Ayurvedic Hospital and school recently established by the Government of Madras. But let me record my opinion that an Ayurvedic training without a sound fundamental training in Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, etc., will for ever remain an incomplete training and the practice of an art which is fundamentally deficient is not likely to thrive and hold its own side with the advanced scientific system of Government Hospitals and Dispensaries. It would be just as reasonable to institute schools of training in Alchemy and Astrology as to establish an Ayurvedic School.

I anticipate that at no distant date when qualified medical men settle down in rural parts on account of block in Government Service Ayurvedic medicine having at its best only a limited scope will only play a subsidiary role in the domain of public medical relief. Under these circumstances I do not see the advisability of establishing a Central Ayurvedic Hospital and school as suggested in the revised proposals of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats.

(2) A central pharmacy.—This is a commercial venture, and the State will not be justified in embarking on the manufacture and sale of Ayurvedic medicines and drugs. I can conceive a State-aided undertaking if the State is disposed to foster and aid an indigenous industry of that nature, but a State-run pharmacy will, I am afraid, share the same fate as other commercial undertakings of past. It must be left to private enterprisers of which many exist already all over Malabar, Cochin and Travancore.

(3) The opening of a medical garden, as a commercial concern is not within the range of practical politics. Specimens of medical plants may be grown in the model farm at Trichur.

Items 2, 3 and 4 are counsels of perfection and not practical at the present stage of Ayurvedic development.

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